

T H E  
C A S E  
O F  
JOHN NELSON.

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Written by Himself.

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The THIRD EDITION.

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*The Lion hath roared, Who will not fear? The LORD  
hath spoken, Who can but prophesy? Amos iii. 8.*

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NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:

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JOHN NELSON.

**M**AY 4. 1744. At Seven at Night, when I had done my Day's Work, I went to *Adwalton*, and expounded at *John Booth's*, to a well-behaved Congregation. When I had done, *Joseph Gibson*, the Constable's Deputy, (an Alehouse-keeper, who had found *his Craft was in Danger*) pressed me for a Soldier. I ask'd him by whose Order? He said, "Several of the Inhabitants of their Town, who did not like so much Preaching;" and by his own Talk it appeared, they were those of his own Craft.

He caused me to go to the *White Hart*, whither Mr *Charlesworth*, and Mr *Holmes* of *Sikehouse*, and several more went with us: And Mr *Charlesworth* offer'd 500 *l.* Bail for me till the next Day; but no Bail was to be taken for a *Methodist*, (so called). He protested I should go to his House. I made no Resistance, but went, and several of our People with us; and we sang an Hymn, and prayed together, and so parted.

Next Morning several People came to see me before we went from *Adwalton*. Here I was kept ten Hours, before the Warrant came into his House: And when the Constable came, he said, if he had been there he would have prevented what *Gibson* had done.

Between Eight and Nine I went to *Birſtal*, to my Houſe; and after I had changed my Cloaths, we ſet out for *Halifax*, and I was brought before the Commiſſioners, who ſmiled one at another as ſoon as they ſaw me. They bid the Door-keepers not to let any Man come in; but Mr *Thomas Brooke* had got in with me; and they ſaid, that is one of his Converts. Then they called *John Gilſen*, and asked, How many Men have you brought? He ſaid, One. Well, and what have you againſt him? Why, Gentlemen, ſaid he, I have nothing to ſay againſt him, but *he preaches to the People*; and ſome of our Townſmen don't like ſo much preaching. They broke out into Laughter; and one of them ſwore I was fit to go for a Soldier, for there I might have preaching enough. I ſaid to him, Sir, you ought not to ſwear: *Well*, ſaid they to me, *you have no Licence to preach, and you ſhall go for a Soldier*; and to the Captain, *Captain, is he fit for you?* Yes, he answered; *then take him away*.

But, I ſaid, here are ſeveral of my honeſt Neighbours; you ought to give me the Liberty of another Man, and hear what they ſay of me, whether I am ſuch an one as the Warrant mentions or no. They answered, *Here is your Miniſter*, [one of the Commiſſioners] *and he has told us of your Character, and we will hear no more*. So I found I was condemned before the Commiſſioners ſaw me.

Then Mr *Brooke* laid the Petitions before them, ſent by my neighbouring Gentlemen; which teſtified I had done no Evil, but had behaved myſelf well in my Neighbourhood, and had always maintained my Family very well; and they deſired them to ſet me at Liberty. And Mr *Brooke* ſaid, "Gentlemen, you ſee he is not ſuch a Man as is mentioned in the Warrant." But they bid him hold his Peace, and ſaid, "you are one of his Pupils, and you ought to go with him." He answered, "Why do you not ſend me then; for you have as much Right to ſend me as him?"

Then



Then our Minister spoke and said, *Young Brookes lives with a Woman of the worst Character of any in our Town.* When I heard him speak against his Neighbours such notorious Falshoods as these, I thought it would be to no Purpose for Mr *Brookes* to say any more; so I desired him to be silent. Then they read the Papers sent on my Behalf; and one of the Company asked if he must put them on the File? But the Answer to him by several was, *No; for if they be called for, they will make against us.*

"So, said I, Gentlemen, I see there is neither Law nor Justice for a Man that is call'd a *Methodist*; but all is lawful that is done against me. I pray God forgive you, for you know not what you do." They answered, *Surely your Minister must be a better Judge of you than any other Man, and he has told us enough of you and your preaching.* "Well, said I, Mr C——, what do you know of me that is evil? Whom have I defrauded? Or where have I contracted a Debt that I cannot pay?" He said, *You have no visible Way of getting your Living.*" I answered, "I am as able to get my Living with my Hands, as any Man of my Trade in England is, and you know it: And had I not been at Work Yesterday, and all the Week before?" But they bid the Captain take me away; and he came and said, *We will take you off preaching soon.* I answered, "You must first ask my Master Leave." But *we will make you give over.* But, I replied, "It is out of your Power." Then he thrust me into a Corner of the Room, and said, I should have Company presently.

Afterwards several were brought to the Commissioners, and three condemned to go with me, and four or five acquitted. But all had their Neighbours to speak for them, except me; for what need was there of any other Witness?

Glory be to God on high! He kept my Soul all this Time in perfect Peace, and I could say to him from my Heart,

Whilst Thou, O my God, art nigh,  
 My Soul disdains to fear ;  
 Sin and Satan I defy.  
 Still impotently near :  
 Earth and Hell their Wars may wage,  
 Calm I mark their vain Design,  
 Smile to see them idly rage  
 Against a Child of Thine.

Then the Captain read the Articles of War to us that were condemn'd, and said, *You bear your Doom is Death, if you disobey us.* I answered, " I do not fear the Man that can kill me, any more than I do him that can cut down a Dogstander. For I know my Life is hid with Christ in God ; and he will judge between me and you one Day ; but I beseech him not to lay this Sin to your Charge." And to Mr C——, I said, " Sir, I pray God forgive you ; for you have given me such a Character as not another Man in *England* will that knows me."

I was greatly surprized to see Men sit on the Judgment-seat, and drink and swear as they did ; and a Man who had a Commission from God to reprove all that do such Things, could hear and see, and yet never speak in God's Cause. It made me cry out to the Lord, " Take the Matter into thy Hand, O God, for Righteousness is fallen in the Streets, and Iniquity bears Rule." But I could not hear them swear but I must speak to them, although they mocked at my Reproof.

Then we were guarded to *Halifax* Goal ; (but the Keeper would not let us come into his Goal) then to the Officer's Quarters, and kept till Six at Night, where *John Rhodes*, and *Thomas Charlesworth* of *Little Gumerfel* came to see me, and cared for my Soul, as if they had been my Mother's Sons. O, my God, remember them for Good, and give them, and their Houses, and all that wish well to our *Sion*, to rejoice in the Gladness of thy People !

At Six we set out for *Bradford*; and many of the Inhabitants of *Halifax* prayed for me, and wept to see me in the Hands of unrighteous and cruel Men. But I said, "Fear not, God hath his Way in the Whirlwind; and he will plead my Cause; only pray for me, that my Faith fail not."

When we were about half-way between *Halifax* and *Bradford*, one of the Soldiers said to me, "Sir, I am sorry for you; for the Captain is ordered to put you in the Dungeon: But I will speak to him, and if he will let me have the Care of you, you shall lye with me; for the Dungeon is a loathsome Place as ever I saw." I thanked him for his Offer: But when we got to *Bradford*, we were driven up in the Street where the Cross did stand; and the Captain sent and fetched the Keeper of the Dungeon, and said, *Take this Man, and put him into the Dungeon; and take this other along with you* ——— (a poor, harmless Man, all the Cloaths upon whose Back were not worth one Shilling; neither did they lay any thing to his Charge when he was ordered for a Soldier.)

But when they came to the Dungeon Door, the Soldier who spoke to me by the Way, went to the Captain, and said, Sir, if you will give me Charge over Mr *Nelson*, my Life for his, he shall be forthcoming in the Morning; but the Captain threatned to break his Head if he spoke about me any more.

He came to us before I went down, and I ask'd him, "Sir, what have I done, that I must go to the Dungeon? If you are afraid of me that I should run away, set a Guard over me in a Room, and I will pay them." He answered, "*My Order is*, to put you in the Dungeon." So I see my Lord's Word is fulfilled, *The Servant is not above his Master*. For those that were accused of Thieving and great Evils which they had done in their Neighbourhood, must eat and drink, and lye on Feather Beds; but I only desired a little Water, and it was refused me by the Captain, altho' I had nothing all Day, except a little Tea in the Morning. But my Master never sends his

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Servants a Warfare at their own Charge. He gives Strength according to our Duty. For when I came into the Dungeon, that stunk worse than any Hogstye or little House, by reason of the Blood and Filth which sinks from the Butchers who kill over it, my Soul was so filled with the Love of God, that it was as a Paradise to me.

Then could I cry out, O the glorious Liberty of the Children of God! And I fell down on my Knees, and gave God Thanks that he counted me worthy to be put in a Dungeon for the Truth's Sake; and prayed that my Enemies might be saved from the Wrath to come, I think with as much Desire as I could feel for my own Mother's Children. I wished they were as happy in their Houses as I was in the Dungeon.

About Ten, several of the People came to the Dungeon-door, and brought me some Candles, and put me some Meat and Water in at the Hole of the Door. When I had eat and drank, I gave God Thanks: And we sung Hymns almost all Night; they without, and I within.

The same Night, a Man that lives in *Bradford* came to the Dungeon; and tho' he was an Enemy to the *Methodists*, so called, when he smelt the ill Savour of the Place, he said, "Humanity moves me," and went away directly; and about Eleven, came again and said, "I will assure you I am not in your Way of Thinking, but for all that, I have been with your Captain, and offered ten Pounds Bail for you, and myself as a Prisoner, if he would let you lie in a Bed; but all in vain, for I can get nothing of him but bad Words. If the Justice was in Town, I would have gone to him, and would have soon fetched you out: But since it is as it is, I pray God plead your Cause." O, my God, let not him that would give a Cup of cold Water to thy Servants lose his Reward: But do thou bless him, and bless thy People; and I beseech thee to have Mercy on our Enemies, and let not thy heavy Judgments fall upon them: But be Thou glorified in their Conversion, not in their Destruction.

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The poor Man that was with me might have starved, if my Friends had not brought him Meat : For when they had locked us up, they went to their Lodgings, and took no more Thought of us that Night.

When the Man and I were laid down upon a little stinking Straw, " Pray you, Sir, (said he) are all these your Kinsfolk, that they love you so well ? I think they are the lovingest People that ever I saw in my Life." I answered, By this you may know that they are JESUS CHRIST's Disciples ; for this is the Mark he himself has given, whereby all Men might know his Disciples from the unbelieving World.

At Four in the Morning, my Wife and several more came to the Dungeon, and spoke to me through the Hole of the Door ; and I said, *Jeremiah's* Lot is fallen on me. Then it came to my Remembrance, that when I was about thirteen or fourteen Years old, I often thought if GOD would make me like *Jeremiah*, to stand and speak his Words to the People in the Streets, as he did, I should not mind who cast Dirt at me. And now I am in some Measure treated as he was, for persuading Men to flee from the Wrath to come.

My Wife said, " Fear not ; the Cause is God's for which you are here, and he will plead it himself. Therefore be not concerned about me and the Children ; for he that feeds the young Ravens will be mindful of us. He will give you Strength for your Day ; and after we have suffered a while, he will perfect that which is lacking in our Souls, and then bring us where the Wicked cease from troubling, where the Weary are at Rest."

So said they all that were with her at the Door. I told them, " I cannot fear either Man or Devil, so long as I find the Love of God as I do now : For he has cheered my Heart as with sweet Wine, ever since he suffered me to be cast into Prison. O that I may be faithful unto Death, and I shall receive the Crown of Life ! For not one Word of JESUS shall fall to the Ground till all be accomplish'd."

About

About Five in the Morning they took me out, and we were guarded to *Leeds*, and stood in the Street till Ten. Hundreds flocked to see me. Some said, "It is a Shame to send a Man for a Soldier for speaking the Truth; for many of our Neighbours that follow the *Methodists*, and were as wicked before as any People in the Town, are now like new Creatures; for we don't hear an ill Word come out of their Mouths." Others cried, "I wish they were all hanged out of the Way, for they make People go mad; and one cannot get drunk nor swear, but every Fool must correct us, as if we were to be taught by them. But I hope they will now be brought to Nought, for that is one of the worst of them."

Just as the Church began, I was guarded to the Goal, and the others ordered to the Alehouse. The Goal-keeper here was very civil; for he let my Friends come in several Times to see me. I thought of the *Pilgrim's Progress*; for Hundreds of People in the Streets stood, and looked at me thro' the Iron-grate, and were ready to fight about me. Several would have given Bail for me, if they would let me out; but I was told that an hundred Pounds was refused, which was offered by a Stranger for me. I am too notorious a Criminal to be allowed such Favours; for Christianity is a Crime which the World can never forgive.

At Night, I believe an Hundred of our Friends were with me in the Goal together. We sung an Hymn, and prayed, and I gave an Exhortation, and so parted. But Mr *H.* was not willing I should lie on stinking Straw, and sent me a Bed to lie on. I find the Time is not yet come for me to be hated of all Men for CHRIST's Sake. I pray God give me Strength in that Day! Glory be to his Holy Name; hitherto his Grace is sufficient for me, and I hang upon his Promise for Strength in my next Trials.

At Five on *Monday* Morning I was let out of Goal, and we marched off for *York* directly; many of our Friends

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Friends went with us out of the Town near three Miles, but when I came to take my Leave, they mourned as one that had lost his First born. I spake comfortable Words to them, and bad them "Stand fast, in nothing terrified by your Adversaries; which is to them an evident Token of Perdition, but to you of Salvation, and that of GOD. So the Peace of GOD be with you all."

We came to *York* by three, and were brought before several of the Officers at the *Black Swan* in *Coney-Street*, who seemed to rejoice as Men that had taken great Spoil, and saluted me with many a grievous Oath. It brought something to my Mind which I had spoken in the Fields to the Lord, when he had broke a great Cloud that was on my Soul, through my refusing to preach when many desired me, and I had Time, but consulted with Flesh and Blood. My Soul was in great Distress, so that I threw myself on the Ground, and requested for Death; seeing it more agreeable to Flesh and Blood, to be a Shepherd's Dog than a Preacher of the Gospel: For his Hand is against every Man, and every Man's Hand is against him. But at the Remembrance of the Prophets and Apostles, and CHRIST himself, what Contradiction and Tribulation they all met with, the Cloud broke, and my Soul was so refreshed with the Love of GOD, that I cried out, "My LORD and my GOD! now thou hast given me Strength, forsake me not; and if thou send me to Hell, to preach to Devils, I am ready to go."

When I was before these Officers, and heard such horrid Language; I thought Hell could not be much worse than the Company I was in. I asked them, Do you believe there is one GOD, and that he is a GOD of Truth? They said, *We do*. I answered, I cannot believe you, I tell you plainly. *Why so?* I replied, I cannot think that any Man of common Understanding, who believes that GOD is true, dares take his Name in vain; much less do you believe GOD can hear you, when you pray him to *damn your Souls*. Now suppose GOD should grant you the Damnation you pray for, what miserable Wretches would you be?

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Do you know that you must one Day appear before that God, who will not hold him guiltless that takes his Name in vain ?

As I reasoned with them about a future State, they seemed to shrink as if I had thrown Fire at them ; but they soon put away the Conviction, and said, " You must not preach here, for you are deliver'd to us as a Soldier ; and must not talk so to us that are Officers." I answer'd there is but one Way for you to prevent me. They said, *What is that ?* I replied, " It is to swear no more in my Hearing."

Then we were guarded through the City ; but it was as if Hell was moved from beneath to meet me on my coming. The Streets and Windows were filled with People who shouted and huzza'd as if I had been one that had laid waste the Nation. But the Lord made my Brow like Brass ; so that I could look on them as Grasshoppers, and pass thro' the City, as if they had been none in it, but God and me. O that I might never offend my gracious God, or provoke him to take his Loving Kindness from me ! Then, though I go through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no Evil. Even now I find his Word fulfilled where he saith, I will deliver thee from sudden Fear and from Terror ; for it shall not come near thee. Verily thou art a God of Truth ! O be merciful to this great City, whose Streets ring with Curses ; and turn upon them a pure Language, that their Souls may be saved, and the Enemy disappointed of his Hope !

I was brought to the Guard-house, and the Officers cast Lots for me, and it was Captain S—'s Lot to have me. Then they offered me Money, but I refused to take it ; and they bid the Serjeant handcuff me and send me to Prison. I was guarded thither by a File of Musketeers, but not handcuffed, and kept two Nights and part of three Days ; during which Time I was beset with such Cursers and Swearers, who could hardly be matched out of Hell. So I had Work enough both Day and Night, to reprove them. I found they could not stand my Words, but the more they harden'd among them shrunk, and wished they could leave it off, and never swear more.



Several of the Town's People came and asked me of the Doctrine that the *Methodists* preached; which makes their Names, said they, to be loathed by all Sects and Parties in the Nation. My Answer was, That same Doctrine it is, which made *Jews* and *Gentiles* conspire against Jesus Christ, who first preached it; and whosoever he be that bears the same Testimony, he must meet with the same Treatment. Our Lord hath said, *Ye shall be hated of all Men for my sake.* And again, *If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.* What! do you think Christ would be found a Liar, and all his Apostles, who told us of the Things that are done in this our Day? Nay, verily; Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but not one Word of Christ's shall fall to the Ground.

When I had opened the Scriptures, and told them the fundamental Points of our Doctrine, they said one to another, This People is not what the World represents them; for if this is their Doctrine, there is not a Man in *England* can contradict them. They offered me strong Drink, (but I told them I did not chuse it) wished me out of my Enemies Hands, and left me to my Company of Drunkards and Swearers.

I may say, I have fought with Beasts at *York*, for so these Men live; yet my speaking to them was not in vain; for they did bridle their Tongues in my Presence, after the first 24 Hours. When they did speak any blasphemous Word, if I did but turn, and look them in the Face, they looked like Criminals before the Magistrate.

On *Tuesday* Night, my Wife and Sister *Mitchel* came to see me, and found me lying on the Beards. I said, Behold the Fruits of the Gospel. Now you see the Word of God is fulfilled, *They lay a Snare for him that reproveth in the Gate, and he that turneth from Evil maketh himself a Prey.* But God looks down from Heaven, and will plead our Cause; fear not. No, they answered, we do not fear; for our God is as able to deliver now, as he was 1700 Years ago. So they took their Leave of me that Night, and wished me a good Repose on my wooden Bed; and,

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Thanks

Thanks be to God, I slept as well as if I had been on a Bed of Down.

Next Morning they brought me something to eat, and bade me be strong in the Lord, and not fear them that can kill the Body only. My Heart was rejoiced to see them so stedfast in the Faith.

This Day a Court-Martial was held, and I was guarded to it by a File of Musketeers, with their Bayonets fix'd to their Pieces. When I came before the Court, they asked what is this Man's Crime? And the Answer was, This is the *Methodist* Preacher, and he refuses to take Money. Then they turned to me, and said, "Sir, you need not find Fault with us, for we must obey our Orders, which are to make you act as a Soldier: For as such you are delivered to us; and if you have not Justice done you, we cannot help it."

My Answer was, "I shall not fight; for I cannot bow my Knee before the Lord, to pray for a Man, and get up and kill him when I have done: For I know God both hears me speak, and sees me act; and I should expect the Portion of the Hypocrite, if my Actions contradicted my Prayers. Well, dont stand preaching to us, said they, for we must make you obey us. Serjeant, give him some Money; he offer'd me Two Shillings, but I refused to take it. They threatened me sore, but I could not fear them at all. Well, said they, if you run away, you are as liable to suffer as if you had taken our Money. I answered, if I cannot be discharged lawfully, I shall not run away. If I do, punish me as you please. Then they ordered the Serjeant to go to Quarters with me. He carried me to the *Wild Man* in *Peter-gate*, and the People behaved well to me, though they had eight more quartered upon them. They said, It is a Pity you should come among such a wicked Crew as these we have. Surely there are but few like them in the World. They ordered me a Room and Bed to myself. Blessed be God, who gives me Favour in the Sight of the *Egyptians*, who have been so used by those of our own Church. These People were professed *Papists*, who, I might imagine, would shew no more Mercy to a Man that preaches

preaches Salvation by Faith, than they would to a mad Dog. But I see it is not the Name that makes the Christian, but the Mind that was in Christ; and who-soever hath this Mind in him, he is a Christian, let the World call him what they will.

I came to *Margaret Townsend's*, and met with my Wife and Sister *Mitchel*, who rejoiced to see my Feet once more out of Prison. We sang Praises to God for his great Mercies to me at this Time, and passed the Afternoon in encouraging each other. Next Morning I set them out of Town, and went, as I was ordered, to parade at the *Blue Boar in Castle-gate*. The Officers ordered Corporal *W——* to fetch me a Gun, and other warlike Instruments. He seemed to shudder at the Task, but was forced to obey; and when he brought them, and came to gird them on me, he trembled as if he had had the Palsy.

I asked why they girt me with these warlike Habilliments, for I am a Man averse from War, and shall not fight but under the Prince of Peace, the Captain of my Salvation; and the Weapons he gives me are not carnal like these. Well, said they, but you must bear these, till you can get your Discharge. As you put them on me, I answered, I will bear them as a Cross, and use them as far as I can, without defiling my Conscience; for that I will not do for any Man on Earth.

The Officers bade them march us off to *Herworth-Moor*, to learn the Exercise of a Soldier; but Corporal *W——* seemed as tender of me as if he had been my own Father, and carried the Gun for me to the Field. But when he came to teach me their Exercise, his Heart seem'd to fail him, and he bade me lay down the Gun, and we fell into Discourse. I found he had the Fear of God before his Eyes, and the Lord had shewed him the Light of his Countenance. But he was as a Sparrow alone on the House top; none cared for his Conversation, but they all despised him, because he would not get drunk and swear as they did. O my God, remember him for Good always, I beseech thee.

Next Day I was ordered to the Field, and others must teach me the warlike Exercise; who all behaved

civilly to me. I had more to see me than all the rest, and it caused the Truth to break out the more, and removed Prejudice from many. I found the People of *York* looked upon one that is called a *Methodist*, as one that has the Plague, and infects all he comes near; and they blessed God that none had come to preach there.

But if I was bound, the Word of God was not bound; for if any did blaspheme, I reprov'd them, whether rich or poor, and fell into many Disputes with them; and God gave me Words, such as they could not resist. My Discourses had such an Effect on them, that they said they wished Mr *Wesley* would come and preach there. I gave them several of our little Books; so by hearing and reading, they found out our Doctrine to be only the plain Word of God. And now several attended my coming to *Field*; not to see me as before, but to ask Questions, and to know of the New Doctrine, as some were pleased to call it. Surely by all these Things shall the Gospel be spread. The Lord is in the Tempest, and it shall turn to his Glory; Satan doth but whet a Knife to cut his own Throat.

On *Sunday* the 13th I went to *Coney street Church*, and my Lord manifested himself to me in great Love at the Sacrament. At Night, *Hannah Scolfield* and I, and our Brother from *Manchester*, with two or three more, went out into the Fields, thinking to retire; but some had seen us, and told others that we were gone to sing Hymns. We had been but a few Minutes together, before we had near an hundred to keep us Company. We sung two Hymns, and I gave them an Exhortation. They received my Words with Meekness, and wished to hear me again.

We went about a Mile another Way; but there were People walking there also, who knew me, and flocked to us, and desired to hear what sort of Doctrine it is we preach, which causes all Men to hate us. I said, It is the Doctrine of Jesus Christ, which made all Men hate him; and ye are sensible our great Shepherd said, *Ye shall be hated of all Men for my Sake*. But, they said, this is a Christian Land, and it is not so now. Well, said I, then you must say the Gospel is not an everlasting Gospel, or you declare us blest,  
and



and almost all the Preachers in *England* curs'd. They said, What, do we point the Blessings to you, and the Curse to all the rest? We think it the other Way. Then (said I) you do not think as Christ spake; for he said, *Blessed are ye when all Men speak Evil of you, and hate you for my sake and the Gospel's: Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for so they did to the Prophets of old. But woe unto you when all Men speak well of you; for so they spake of the false Prophets.* Upon this they were silent, but wished they could hear me themselves, then they could judge better. By this Time a great Company was come together, desiring to hear me, and God gave me to speak plain, and to their Hearts. When I had done, several of them said, they would go ten Miles to hear such another Discourse. The Prejudice seem'd taken out of their Minds at a Stroke; and they cried, this is the Doctrine which ought to be preached, let Men say what they will against it.

As we came back, one of our Company said, I wonder the Devil cannot perceive, that his striving to suppress the Gospel, is like striving to quench the Fire by casting Oil into it. As God spake, so it is I see this Day. His Servants are like Brands of Fire cast into dry Stubble. Surely God will be glorified in your Captivity. Only let us watch and pray that the Enemy get no Advantage over us.

The Day following I went, as before, to exercise, and many came to talk with me; some to dispute, and some who earnestly desired to be saved. Among the Disputers was a Clergyman. I knew him; for I had seen him in his Gown three Days before. When several, who appeared as Gentlemen, disputed hotly against all the Power of Religion, I shewed them from the Articles, and Homilies, and Prayers of our own Church, that those who spoke as they did, were no Members of the Church of *England*. For, to be a real Member of Christ's Church, is to feel Christ in us; to know he died for his Church, and that by his Death we are delivered from Death eternal; to find that Spirit which raised him from the Dead, raising us from the Death of Sin, that our Bodies may be the

undefiled Temples of the living God, an holy Habitation of God, through his Spirit dwelling in us. For as many as have the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God; and if any Man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Nay, if you *know* not (I added) that Christ is in you, you are now in a State of Reprobation. So, said they, you have condemned us all at a Stroke. I answered, I have condemned no Man; for I have not spoken my own, but the Words of God, as I appeal to your Consciences, you that have ever read them.

When they were put to Silence, the Minister began to explain the Spirit of God out of the World; as what could not be felt or perceived at all, neither was it necessary, now we had the Scriptures to go by. I said, it is highly necessary, if the Scriptures be true: For they tell me, if I have not the Spirit of Christ, I am none of his; and if I am not his, I must belong to the Devil: for they two share the World between them.

Besides, if there be no such Thing as receiving the Holy Ghost, now a-days, as you say, then he who repeats the Prayers of the Church, offers to God the Sacrifice of Fools. Here he stormed at me, and called me an Enthusiast, and said, to talk of the Spirit was all a Delusion. Hold, Sir, I replied, or I shall expose you before the People, which I did not design to do. How could you affirm, before God and the Congregation, that you was inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the Office of a Deacon; and now you testify that there is no such Thing as being moved by the Holy Ghost? He said, did I say so? Yes, Sir, I answered, you did, when you received Holy Orders. He turned pale, spake not ten Words more, but went away. I have met him several Times since, and he speaks kindly to me.

I had some every Day to dispute with me; and every Night some to converse with me, who wanted to know the Way to *Zion*. The People now cry out, When will Mr *Wesley* come, for here are thousands in this Town would gladly hear him. Indeed I find a great Desire in them to know the Way of Salvation;

tion; nay, and they seem willing to be saved God's own Way; that is, *from* their Sins, not *in* them. Surely the Lord will be mindful of them, and give them Teachers after his own Heart.

The second *Sunday* I went to Church, and my Heart was comforted again by the Love of God in the Sacrament. God, I find, will meet with us in his own Ways; O may we never forsake them!

This Week I had several of the Brethren to see me, and we were comforted together. Our Brother *Asb* brought me some little Books, which I gave to the People who came to talk with me. So that by my Speaking, and their Reading, many began to be alarmed, and sent for me to their Houses, to enquire how can these Things be, which we affirm? For if these Things are so as you say, and Mr *Wesley* has here written, then we are not Christians. I told them I would prove these Things to be true, both from our own Church, and from the written Word of God; and if you find you have not these inward Marks of Faith, such as Peace, Joy, Love, the Witness of the Spirit, you are not Christians yet. But that is no Reason why ye should not become such; for Christ has commanded Repentance and Remission of Sins to be preached to every Soul in his Name; and he doth actually pardon and absolve all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his Holy Gospel. Therefore seek, and you shall find; for the Truth of God binds him to give to every one that asketh.

The People attended my going to the Field all this Week; and when I went along the Streets, they came out of their Houses to stare at me, as if I had been a Monster. I have read that they would not suffer them to buy or sell in the City, unless they had the Mark of the Beast; but here, without his Mark we cannot so much as pass the Streets. O my God, why is thy Servant as a speckled Bird in this which is called a Christian Country? Called after thy most sacred Name; which whosoever names should depart from Iniquity. How is the faithful City become an Harlot, and thy People taken Captive by the Enemy

my at his Will. It is Time for thee, Lord, to lay to thy Hand, for they have destroyed thy Law!

One Day this Week, after my Exercise on the Moor, there came a Gentleman in Gold Lace, and a Minister in Disguise, and began asking me Questions; which I answered according to the Ability God gave me. Many flock'd round about us to hear, for our Dispute was long, and hot on their Side. I believe we had talked half an Hour before I perceived he was a Minister; for I took him for a Lawier, and such a one as believed there was no God: For if I spoke of the Scriptures, he threw up his Head and called me Fool, and bade me hold my Nonsense. I said, that which you call Nonsense, I call the highest Wisdom. When I spake any thing of the Spirit of God, he heaved his Cane at me, as if he would have struck me: But God gave me perfect Peace in my Soul, and Words that made him start, and convinced the By standers of the Truth. He was so enraged that he foamed at the Mouth like a Horse that is hard rid. But when I understood that he was a Minister, I said, Hold, Sir, let me speak a little by your Leave. You call yourself a Minister of the Church of *England*, do you not? *I do*. Pray then, Sir, what Doctrine do you preach? For you make the Word of God of none effect, and you deny all Inspiration. *So I do deny all Inspiration*. "How dare you then pray for the Inspiration of God's Spirit, when you do not believe there is any such Thing?" When he had raged a while, he said, I believe you have read the Book of *Job*, and made it all your own. I answered, I have need of Patience, who have Men of such Principles as you to talk with, that regard not what they say to provoke one; but I thank God you have not done it yet. He replied, his Reason for speaking so was, because I could not be quiet with my Nonsense and Inspiration. And, I hear, you have preached several Times since you came, and have filled the Heads of many in this Town with your new Doctrine. I told him I had not preached publickly since I came, but did not know how soon I might. Then he shook his Stick, and



and stamp'd, and said in Anger, "If you do preach publickly, we shall take an Order with you, which shall be worse than sending you for a Soldier." Let God look to that, I answered; for, by his Grace, I can love all Men, but fear none, that can kill the Body only. I assure you it is not the Fear of Man which shall hinder me from Preaching; for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty. When he began to calm a little, I asked him, Sir, suppose you had been inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to preach the Gospel; if the outward Ordination was refused you, when you believed yourself called according to the Will of Christ to preach, would you forbear Preaching? that is, would you obey Man or God? I suppose, said he, you think you have put an hard Question to me. But, hard or easy, he never answered it; and I cannot remember that ever I saw him since.

On *Saturday*, several desired me to preach on *Sunday Morning*. I told them I should take a Walk out to the Moor at half an Hour after Seven. Accordingly I did so, and found thrice as many as I expected, and preached to about three Hundred well-behaved People, who begged me to preach again at Night. I answered some of them I did not know but I might: yet I gave no publick Notice. But one told another, and spread it through the City.

I went to the *Minster*, and heard the Bishop preach, and received the blessed Sacrament at his Hands. At Seven in the Evening, I went to the Moor, and found an unexpected Congregation, I believe six thousand People. But there was nothing prepared for me to stand on, and great Part of the Soldiers were there, almost drunk, and began to quarrel with the People that crowded me; so that I saw there was likely to be Mischief done, and prevented it by withdrawing. If I had preached, I believe they would have behaved quietly, for they seemed to have a great Desire to hear what this Doctrine is. I had not the Opportunity of satisfying them at this Time; but they that had heard in the Morning, told others, and enflamed them the more with Desire to hear for themselves. Several sent  
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for me to their Houses, and others came to me: So I see God will work, and who shall hinder? Lord, open their Understandings, that they may know the Things which belong to their everlasting Peace.

On *Monday* I heard that some Clergymen were with the Officers; and, at Night, one of the Officers sent for me, and said, What, you cannot leave off your Preaching yet; but we must be blamed about you. But if ever you preach publickly more, you shall be severely whipped. My Answer was, I am not careful in this Matter. It is better to obey God than Man! I believe it is the Will of God that I should preach; and I have not taken Man to please in any Thing that will offend my God.

With many Threats he bade me go, but I made no Promise to obey him, neither did I intend it in this Case; for I had promised to go to *Ackam*, a Village about a Mile out of *York*, the next Evening. Accordingly I went, and preached to almost all the Inhabitants, in a Field. The Lord gave me to speak his Word freely, and sent it with Power to their Hearts. The Rock was struck, and the Waters gushed out. All whom I saw behaved well. Many said they hoped I would come again; "for let Men say what they will " of this People, this is the Truth, and so we shall " find it one Day."

As I came down the Street, an Alderman of *York* and his Wife, who had been to hear me, were standing at the Gate of his House, and he called to me, and said, If you please to accept of a Glass of any sort of Liquor my House affords, it is at your Service. I said, I thank you for your Good will, but I don't care to drink. Several others offered me Drink, but I took none. They prayed me to come once a week, as long as I staid in *York*. Lord, be mindful of this People, I beseech thee, and send them those, who will preach Righteousness by Faith in Jesus Christ. And O that they may be found in the Wedding-garment in that Day, when every Covering, which is not of thy Spirit, will be found as filthy Rags before thy pure Eyes.

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All this Week I had Company as much as I could tell what to do with. Several desired me to preach on *Sunday Morning*. I did not promise, but went to discourse with about a Score, at seven, on the Moor. Others had a Suspicion of my being there, and I believe 200 flocked round me, as soon as they saw me walking, and begged me to preach to them. I told them I stand in Jeopardy if I do; but they answered, we are in more Danger than you, for our Souls are in Danger. It came into my Mind, that I had freely received, and ought to give freely. Wherefore I preached to them, and God was with us of a Truth, and the Hearts of the People were opened to receive the Word in Love.

I came to Sister *Townsend's*, and found my own Brother, and Brother *Mitchel*, come to see me; and we were comforted together. Our Time was short, for I had but half an Hour, before I went to answer for what I had done. Somebody had told the Ensign that I had been preaching; and he sent for me, and said, *Damn your Blood, Sir, have you been preaching this Morning?* I said, I had. He swore he would have no preaching nor praying in their Regiment. Then I said, "Sir, you ought to have no swearing nor cursing neither; for surely I have as much Right to pray and preach, as you have to curse and swear"

He swore again that I should be damnably whipped for what I had done. I answered, "Let God look to that, for the Cause is his. But if you don't leave off your cursing and swearing, it will be worse with you than with me. Then he said, "Corporal, put this Fellow in Prison directly. The Corporal, said, "Sir, I must not carry a Man to Prison, unless I give in his Crime with him." Well, said he, it is for disobeying Orders. So I see an Hundred may disobey all the Orders of God, and there is no Notice taken of them; nor do the common People cry out hang *them* out of the Way: but if one of a thousand begins to reprove them for Sin, they hale him to Prison, as if he had killed Father or Mother. But so it was from the beginning; for a Murtherer was preferred before the Prince of Life.

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I was put Prisoner just as the Church began, and I sent a Man to tell my Brother that the Word of God was fulfilled, "*Behold the Devil shall cast some of you into Prison, that ye may be tried,*" and desired their Prayers that I may be faithful unto Death.—As soon as I was within the Prison, my Heart was filled with Joy unspeakable, and my Mouth with Praise to my dear Redeemer. This also shall turn to the Glory of God; for several Men of good Report heard me this Morning, and testified that I had spoke the Truth; and they would not (they said) be guilty of sending that Man to Prison for preaching, not for all the World. This caused many to come to me, who offered me Wine and strong Drink. I told them I did not care for any sort of strong Liquor; but such as I had gave I unto them; some little Books, and the Words of God, which he gave me plentifully to speak to them, without respect of any Man's Person.

Two Nights and near three Days, I was kept Prisoner at this Time; during which, my Soul was as a watered Garden, and I could sing Praises to God all the Day long, for he turned my Captivity into Joy; and gave me to rest as well on the Boards as if I had been on a Bed of Down. Now could I say God's Service is perfect Freedom, and I was carried out much in Prayer, that my Enemies might drink of the same River of Peace which my God gave so largely to me.

Now did I more plainly see the dreadful State of the Unconverted than ever before; and thought, if it might be the Conversion of my Enemies, I could be content that they should tread me under their Feet. But God only knows how it would have been, had I been so tried. Yet thus far he hath helped me, and given me Strength for my Day. Indeed I have found him a God of Truth, as far as I have tried him; and I put forth the Hand of my Faith, to lay hold of his Strength for what he shall next call me to.

On *Tuesday* I was fetched out, and brought before the Major. There were several of the young Officers with him, who smiled when I came into the Room;



Room ; for they had been several times to see me in Prison, and had sworn I should be severely whipt. But I told them, if they did not repent, and leave off that swearing, they should perish eternally (and I shall be Witness against you ; ) and that will be worse than your whipping me for Christ's Sake.

Now they seemed to rejoice, as if their Words were going to be fulfilled. The Major called, "*John Nelson*," "what was you put Prisoner for?" For warning the People to flee from the Wrath to come, I answered ; and, if this be a Crime, I shall commit it again, unless you cut out my Tongue : For it is better for me to die than disobey God. "Well, but if that be all, he replied, "that is no Crime : For, when you have done your Duty, I don't care if you preach every Night in an House, or any private Place out of the Town ; but "I would not have you make any Mobs." That, said I, is far from my Design. "Well, said he, you may "go home to your Quarters, and if I have a convenient "Time, I will send for you, and hear you myself ; for "I wish all Men were like you." Here my Adversaries hung down their Heads, and gave off smiling.

As I went to Sister *Townsend's*, I heard that we were to leave *York* on *Thursday* at four in the Morning, and march to *Sunderland*. I had a great Desire to have seen my Wife first ; but she did not get my Letter soon enough. Many of the People came, and said, "We are sorry you are going so soon from *York* ; but if you get your Liberty, we hope both you and Mr *Wesley* will come : For we have need of such Plain-dealing, and Thousands in the City would be glad to hear. You see what a populous wicked Place it is : Pray do not forget us, but think of us when you see us not. We expected some of you two or three Years ago ; but you had no Regard for our Souls, till God brought you by Force. Surely you was not sold hither, but sent for our good ; therefore forget us not."

O the Tenderness which this People shewed, and desire for the Word of God ! It moved me to cry out, Lord, have Mercy on them, and let them hear thy Gospel, and find it thy Power unto Salvation ; for why should thy People perish for lack of Knowledge ?

On *Thursday* Morning we stood two Hours in the  
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Streets, before we set out of Town. We marched to *Easingwold* that Day, and when we were driven up in the Street, the People perceived me to be the *Methodist* Preacher they had read of in the News-papers. They told one another, and flock'd about me, as if the Soldiers had brought a Monster into the Town.

When we had staid near an Hour in the Street, I and five more were billeted at one House, where the People were so poor, they had not fix Seats for us to sit on, nor any Beds ; so we came back to the Officers Quarters, and they ordered four of us to another House.

God gave me to speak plain to them, and several of their Neighbours, who came to see the *Methodist*. And they said, if this be the *Methodists* Doctrine, we pray God we may have it preach'd in this Town ; for hundreds would be glad to hear you.

In the Evening the Head Man of the Town came in. He is a professed Papist, but a moral honest Man, and one who bears a good Character in his Neighbourhood. He asked me many Questions, and God gave me to answer him to his Satisfaction. Indeed I never saw a Man of his Rank so teachable and so humble. His Gold Lace did not make him above listening to the Gospel. He seem'd a Man of sound Reason, as well as liberal Education. I spoke for near an Hour, to prove the Doctrine of Justification by Faith ; and that both from the Old and New Testament. I shew'd the Fruits of that justifying Faith, and the Necessity of every Man's having it, that he may escape the Damnation of Hell. The Word had such Effect upon him, that his Eyes discovered the Tenderness of his Heart ; and, when I had ended, he said, I think no Man in his Senses would dare to hinder you from instructing Sinners in the Way of Salvation : As for my Part, I shall be glad to see you at Liberty : And if you get clear of these Men, and come again this Way, I would have you call on me.

I was amazed to find such a Man among the Papists, having met very few, either Teachers or Hearers of our own Church, but what hold the Popish Principles ten times stronger than this Man, who calls himself a Papist. When he went away, he forced two Shillings  
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into my Hand, which I would have returned, telling him I received no Money, and needed none; but he would not take it again, saying he could afford it, and I might have occasion for it on my Journey. O God, be merciful to him that gives a Cup of cold Water to thy Servants.

Next Morning, at Two, the Drum beat for us to march out of Town. By Eleven, on *Friday*, we got to *Northallerton*; and, by Twelve, settled in Quarters. I went into the Market-place, and spoke to those I found there, of the Way of Salvation; I hope not in vain. Afterwards I was sitting alone, and there came a Shop-keeper, and said, if I would go to his House, he would give me a Glass of any Liquor I pleased to drink. I told him I did not drink any strong Liquor. Well but, he said, I desire your Company, if you please, for half an Hour. I went to his House, and drank Tea with him and his Family, and spoke plain to them. They received my Exhortation with Thankfulness, and said, We have heard much of you, but never heard any of you before. Several of you have passed through the Town, and we wondered they never preached here. If you come again, we hope you will call and see us. I gave them a Book, and returned to my Quarters.

Next Morning, at One, the Drum beat for us to march, and we got to *Darlington* by Nine. Here I was known to several; and, by them, made known to almost all the Town. Many came to my Quarters to talk with me; and others sent for me. Whence this Famine in our Land? I find the People hunger after the Word, as if there were no Bibles in the Nation.

We rested here on *Sunday*, and I had many to see me. When they heard what our Doctrine was, they cried, It is a Shame to send a Man for a Soldier for speaking the Truth; for let all Men say what they will, this is the Gospel of *Jesus Christ*.

In the Evening one of the Officers came to me, and said, "Well, Sir, why was not you at Church To-day?" I answered, "I was, Sir, and, if you had been there, you might have seen me; for I never miss going, when I have an Opportunity." Well, Sir, he added, have you preached since you came hither? Not pu-

blickly yet, I replied. He swore he wished I would, that he might punish me severely. But, Sir, (I told him), if you don't repent, and leave off that Habit of Swearing, you will be worse punished than you are able to punish me. He said, "I will make you mind your Firelock, and leave off your Preaching." Yes, Sir, I answered, when I leave off Speaking.

This was he that put me in Prison at *York* for preaching. As *Saul* hunted *David*, so has this Man hunted my Soul; but I trust the same God, that delivered *David*, will deliver me from cruel Men.

I gave several Books away in this Town also; which we left the next Morning.

I was much surpris'd at the Good nature of the Soldiers in all this March, for I believe twenty offered to carry the Gun for me, and any Thing else I had. God, I found, supported me wonderfully in all these Trials; for I could travel fifteen or twenty Miles fasting, as well as those who ate and drank two or three Times by the Way. Surely Man doth not live by Bread alone; but the Lord is the Strength of *Israel*; the Defender of all them that put their Trust in him. O God, be thou my Guide unto Death.

We got to *Durham* by Nine on *Monday*; but, in our Way to *Darlington*, we had had a River to cross, and were obliged to wade through it. The Day was very hot, so that I had sweat much, and caught Cold immediately. I found myself much out of Order, when we got to *Durham*, and desired I might lie down a little. Corporal *W*—— lay down with me, and fell asleep. At Twelve, I waked suddenly, as if some Man had called me, and said to the Corporal, I must go to the Market place directly, for what I know not, neither which Way to go to it. Nor I, he said; but I will go with you, and we can enquire the Way. Accordingly we did; and just as we got thither, my Brother *Wesley* was enquiring for me among the Soldiers. Well, said Mr *W*——, I did never see such a Thing in all my Life, that you should thus awake, and come to meet your Friend, the Minute he came to seek for you.

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We were much comforted together. He told me that Mr *John Wesley* would be at *Durham* soon after four o'Clock. I gave God Thanks for that News. We went on to a Common, about a Mile from the Town, and there we met Mr *W*—. My Heart rejoiced to see him; and great Reason have I to give God Thanks that I ever saw him, who was an Instrument in God's Hands of plucking me, as a Brand out of the Fire. And I have found him God's Messenger for my good ever since.

We came to the Sign of the Angel, and had some Conversation together. He exhorted me to watch and pray; and did not doubt but my Captivity would turn to the Glory of God, and Furtherance of the Gospel. At Six I went to answer my Call, and Mr *W*— went into the *Minster*.

Afterwards I, and *Thomas Beard*, my Fellow-prisoner, met Mr *W*— and our Brother *Errington*, and went with them to the Inn, and staid till Nine. When we had prayed together, we commended each other to the Grace of God; and so parted in Body, not in Spirit.

Next Morning the Drum beat at One, and we were called up into the Market-place, and caused to stand till Three, and then marched off for *Sunderland*, which we reached by Nine. When we were brought up in the Town, I heard several of the Inhabitants say to one another, that is the *Methodist* mentioned in the News-papers; for his Look is not like other Mens. O my God, why am I, and my Fellows, become Men that are wondered at?

While we stood, a Landlord came to us, and said, Sir, I wish you would quarter at my House; for I expect two, and should be glad to have you for one, and whom you chuse for a Comrade. I chose Corporal *W*—, and asked for the Billet as the Man desired, but could not get it. But I believe we got the best Quarters we could have in *Sunderland*. Thus, I see, if we acknowledge God in all our Ways, he will direct our Paths.

When I went to exercise, I had many came to see me, and fell into Discourse with them, but could get no hold of them; for they assented and consented to all I said; and were so full of what the World calls good Manners, that all I spoke was as written on the Sand, tho' I talked with them several Days. Yet some,

I trust, will be mindful of their everlasting Welfare.

On *Saturday* Night I was ordered to stand Centry on the *Sunday* following, and desired I might stand another Day, or pay for my Guard. I believe ten Men offered to stand for me, but all in vain; for the Ensign was the Officer of the Guard that Day; and he protested he would make me do it myself. I asked, Sir, what have I done, that I cannot have the same Liberty as another Man? He answered, "You love the Church too well; and I will keep you from it, and make them go who do not like to go." Keep me, O my God, from all Anger or Ill-will; for this Man is set to prove me. I went to the Guard-house, and many came to talk with me: But I did not stand Centry till Six on *Monday* Morning. The Ensign's saying in the open Street, I should not go to Church, because I loved it, drew many of the People to me; and will turn, I am persuaded, to the Furtherance of the Gospel.

The Week after, Mr M—— came. He had heard what the Ensign had done, and came to me, and asked me how I did; and said, I am informed Mr A—— hindered you from going to Church; but I will assure you, you shall not be hindered again, as long as you are with us.

I have found something of Good in this Man ever since I knew him. He will hear Reason, and seems to make a Conscience both of his Words and Actions.

I was near an Hour in his Chamber, and he asked me of the Principal Points of our Doctrine. I made them as plain to him as I could, and he heard me with great Candour, and said he had no Fault at all to find with it. He told me, "The first Time that ever I saw you, I saw you was no Vagrant; but it would be a Scandal to all who were concerned in sending or receiving such an one: For the Act of Parliament does not reach such as you. But the rest of the Officers said they could not help it, for you was delivered to us as a Soldier by the J——s, and they are the Rogues. No Sir, I answered, the J——s are in no Fault, for I was never before one of them yet. He said, Who sent you then? I replied, the Commissioners. What Evidence had they against you? The Accusation against me was, *He preaches to the People*, by the Constable's Deputy; and he also

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confessed he knew no other Evil of me. Well, but the Act of Toleration clears you from that's being a Crime. What, had you no Men to speak for you? Yes, several were ready, but none were suffered to do it; neither were the Papers regarded which my honest Neighbours and Gentlemen sent on my Behalf. For one of the Commissioners was the *Parson of our Parish*, and *he was the Evidence against me*; and they said they would hear no other. Nay, said Mr M——, it is no Wonder they treated you so, if the Priest was concerned; for they have been at the Head of all the Persecutions for Religion which have been since the World began. I see them so wicked, that I do not mind Religion at all. But this is my Religion: I believe there is one God, and that Christ his Son died for the World: And I strive to do honestly to all Men; and to do a good Turn to the meanest, if I can. And I think my Religion is better than theirs who preach one Thing, and do another. For I have seen so much of them, that I will assure you, I would hear you as soon as any —— in the Land.

He said, he could like to read some of our Books; and I made him a Present of *An earnest Appeal*, and the *Character of a Methodist*, and the Sermon *Awake thou that sleepest*. He has told me since, that he has read, and likes them well.

This Day he procured me a Furlow to go to *Newcastle* for seven Days: And I found I did not go up without the Lord; for my Soul, and those of the People, were refreshed with the Love of God. Several of the Soldiers came to hear me preach, and gave great Attention to the Things which were spoken. I found great Freedom to speak to the Children, whom God has called out of the evil World, to serve him in this Place. Watch over them, O my God, for good, and be thou their Guide unto Death.

On *Tuesday* my Time was out to go back. I preached at *Painsbee*, in the Afternoon, to an attentive Congregation, and got to *Sunderland* by seven at Night. This Week I received a Letter from Mr C—— W——, that the E. of S. had assured the L. H—— that I should be set at Liberty in a few Days. I said, the Lord hath not forgotten to be gracious, for he hath taken my Cause

in hand, and it shall turn to his Glory ; for he alone hath done the Work, when all human Means had seemed to fail. My Enemies cried, we have made his Bonds strong, and none can deliver him out of our Snare ; for we have put it out of the Officer's Power to discharge him for any Price. Lord, I beseech thee, open their Eyes, and let them see the Snare which Satan hath laid for their Souls, and escape by speedy Repentance and Faith in thy Blood.

This Week I was much out of Health by the Surfeit I got in marching ; but found present Ease by being blooded. The Week following I was sent for by the Captain to the Store-house ; and he insisted on my going, tho' I was so ill. When I came there, he and three more Officers came, and asked me how I did. I told them ; and they said, here is a good Coat for you, to keep you from Cold, that you may recover your Health. I said, I have Coats enough, if that would do ; I need none of yours. They said, they would make me wear it, and all the other Cloathing belonging to a Soldier. I answered, You may array me as a Man of War, but I shall never fight. They asked, What is your Reason ? And my Answer was, I cannot see any Thing in this World worth fighting for. I want neither its Riches nor Honours, but the Honour that cometh of God only. I regard neither its Smiles nor Frowns ; and have no Business in it but to get well out of it.

Then they ordered the Serjeant to pull off my Coat, and put a red one on me. When he had done it, they turned me round, and rejoiced over me. I said, You see the Scripture cannot be broken, where it saith, *If they do this in the green Tree, what will they do in the dry ?* What do you mean by that, they asked ? and I answered, *The Soldiers took Jesus, and stripped him, and put a Scarlet Robe upon him, and mocked him,* as you have treated me, his Servant, this Day, for speaking his Words. He indeed hath the greater Condemnation, who delivered me into your Hands ; but I pray God forgive you all. These Words turned their Countenance and Behaviour towards me, and one of them laboured from that Time to find some Way for me to be set at Liberty.

During my three Weeks Illness, many of the Brethren and Sisters from *Newcastle, Biddick, and Painsbee,* came



to see me, and God was pleased at that Time to give some the Knowledge of Salvation by the Remission of their Sins; and to comfort all our Hearts with his Love. O may we ever keep his Commandments, that we may continue in his Love, even as he hath kept his Father's Commandments, and continued in his Love.

On Friday, July 27. *John Graham of Sunderland* came to me with an open Letter in his Hand, and said, Come, my Friend, I have good News for thee. God hath heard the Prayers of thy People in thy Behalf, and sent thee Deliverance. Here, read this Letter, which the Major hath sent to the Captain on thy Account. It was on this wise, "I have received an Order from the Earl of S. to discharge *John Nelson*, who was prest from *Birstal*, in the West-riding of *Yorkshire*. Therefore, take his Arms and Cloathing from him which he has received, and let me know if he has had any Pay since he came, and send him to me with a Furlow." Accordingly I delivered all Things I had belonging to them, to Lieutenant *M.* who said he was glad that I was to be released, and wish'd me well wheresoever I went. I had a Furlow given me, and set out in the Afternoon with some that were come from *Newcastle* to see me; and got there by Seven.

All the Society gave God Thanks on my Behalf, as soon as they saw me; for they had Knowledge of my Deliverance before I had. Next Morning I went to the Major's Quarters about Nine. When I had waited about an Hour, I was ordered to come at half an Hour past Eleven; I did so, and waited another Hour. Then the Major called to me, and bade me come at half an Hour after Two, and he would speak to me. I came again as he ordered me, and when I had staid near an Hour, one of the Captains called me, and said, the Major is gone to dine with the Mayor of the Town, and you will hardly see him To-night; but you will be sure to find him To-morrow Morning. I told him that would not do for me; for my Business was not to be done on the Sabbath.

Near Six in the Evening, I saw the Major go along the Street, and followed him to his Lodgings. He said, I have an Order from the Lord S— to discharge you.  
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He sent for the Adjutant, and ordered him to bring two printed Discharges with him. He came, and three more of the Officers with him, and filled up the Discharge. When he had done, he said, I wish all the Men in our Regiment would behave as well as Mr *Nelson* has done since he came among us ; it would be much better for us, and them too. Then our Lieutenant said, Indeed he has done much Good since he came among us ; for we have not one third of the Cursing and Swearing in the Regiment, which we had before he came. And he has given me several private Exhortations, and some of their Books ; and I thank him for them, and his Advice, for it is good. Then the Major said, I wish I had a Regiment of such Men as he is in all respects, save that one, his refusing to fight : I would not care what Enemy I had to meet, or where my Lot was cast. — Sir, if you fear God, I said, you have no need to fear any Thing else : For they that fear him depart from Evil, and seek to do his Will, and not their own. They know that in his Hand are the Issues of Life and Death ; therefore they fear not him that can kill the Body only, but him that can destroy both Soul and Body in Hell. And every one that has this Fear is truly wise ; but he that dares commit Sin, his Wisdom is the Foolishness of Folly ; for he is pulling Destruction on his own Head, and sitting himself for the Fuel of Hell Fire. But he that is wise unto Salvation, is bold as a Lion, and is more noble than to contend for the Honour which cometh of Men. For having Bread to eat, and Raiment to put on, he knows that is all this World can afford him. He pities the great Ones of the Earth, who feed on Husks, and can be content with the empty Title of Right Honourable ; while, by Sin, they debase themselves even down to Hell. But by these Things the God of this World blinds their Eyes, so that very few of them see the Way to Heaven, as it is pointed out in the Word of God.

Well, said the Major, if you are so scrupulous about fighting, what must we do ? I answered, it is your Trade, and if you had a better it might be better for you. But somebody, he replied, must fight. I said,

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If all Men lived by Faith in the Son of God, Wars would be at an End. That is true, he answer'd, if it was so, we should learn War no more.

But there is one Thing I desire to know of you; tell me, do you make your Sermons ready before you go to preach, or do you speak off hand? "I do not study what to say, but speak as the Spirit of God enables me." Well, said he, I cannot tell what you mean by the Spirit of God. "The more is the Pity, I answer'd, that you should have lived so long in the World, and know nothing of God yet. For we do not know God, but by his own Spirit given unto us; and till we have received that Spirit, we are without God in the World. And no Man can have this Gift and not know it; for thus saith the Lord Jesus, *At that Day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.* So if God be true, we must know that Christ is in us, or we are none of his. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the Sons of God. But if any Man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. He is no Christian, no more than a *Turk* or a *Pagan* is, unless he has the same Spirit which raised Christ from the Dead, to raise him in this World from the Death of Sin."

Here one of the Captains spoke, "You said one Day, if we have not the Spirit of God, we are dead while we live." Did I so? *Yes you did.* Then I will prove it; both from the Doctrine of the Church of *England* (of which I profess myself a Member) and from the Word of God. God gave me to speak plainly from both for about twenty Minutes; none contradicted me, but they stood as dumb Men.

Then the Major said, Here is such a Discharge for you, as I never gave before, but once; and put it into my Hand. I told them, I have now delivered my own Soul, and am pure from the Blood of you all; for I have not spared either Poor or Rich, since I came among you, but have set Life and Death before you all, as you came in my Way. I have declared unto you, that the Wicked shall be turned into Hell, and all the People that forget God; and contrarywise, the blessed State of them, that repent, and obey the  
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Gospel of Christ our Saviour. And I pray God give you all to understand the Things which make for your everlasting Peace, and bless you in turning every one of you from your Iniquities. Then shall we meet another Day to part no more. The Major said, I wish you well wherever you go; for I believe you *Methodists* are well-meaning People; and so said they all. I gave them a Book, and took my Leave of them.

I went to the Room, and preached that Night, and had several of the Soldiers to hear me, who gave great Attention to what I said. Then I took my Leave of them; and some of them wept, and desired me to pray for them, and said, We are glad you are set at Liberty, but sorry to part with you. I commended them to God, and to the Word of his Grace, and trust they will mind the Exhortation, and become good Soldiers of *Jesus Christ*.

On this 28th Day of *July*, I was set at Liberty to go wheresoever I thought was most to God's Glory, who has delivered me from my Bonds. For he hath done the Work, and to him the Glory is due. What am I, that he should so care for me! But he is a God that heareth the Prayer; and the Cries of his People inclined him to take my Cause in Hand. Praise the Lord, O my Soul, who hath kept thee in all Trials, and hath not suffered thee to faint in sore Temptation.

Now I find the Words true which Mr *John Wesley* first sent me at *York*. "Well, my Brother, is the God whom you serve, able to deliver you, and do you find him faithful to his Word? Is his Grace still sufficient for you? I doubt it not; he will not suffer you to be weary or faint in your Mind. But he had Work for you to do which you knew not of, and thus his Counsel was to be fulfilled! O lose no Time! Who knows how many Souls God may by this Means deliver into your Hands. Shall not all these Things be for the Furtherance of the Gospel? And is not the Time coming when we shall cry out together; "Nay, in all these Things we are more than Conquerors, thro' him that loved us."



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